

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for generating an encrypted user data stream, which has a header and a user data block, comprising:

generating the header; and

generating the user data block, which follows the header, by means of the following substeps:

using the first part of the user data as an unencrypted start section for the user data block, the unencrypted start section remaining unencrypted;

encrypting a second part of user data which follows the first part of the user data to obtain encrypted user data; and

appending the encrypted user data to the unencrypted start section, wherein the unencrypted start section of the user data is placed immediately after the header.
2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of generating the header includes the following substep:

entering the length of the unencrypted start section in the header.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the second part does not comprise all the user data to be encrypted and wherein the step of generating the user data block includes the following substep:

appending a third part of user data to be encrypted, which follow the second part, to the encrypted user data of the second part, the user data of the third part

being unencrypted.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of generating the header includes the following substep:

entering the length of the encrypted user data of the second part which are encrypted, in the header.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein the step of generating the header also includes the following substep:

entering the sum of the length of the encrypted user data, which correspond to the second part, and the length of the third part of the unencrypted user data in the header.

6. (Previously Presented) A method for playing back an encrypted user data stream, which has a header and a user data block, where an unencrypted start section of the user data block, which is placed immediately after the header, comprises the first part of the user data in an unencrypted form, and where a further section of the user data block comprises a second part of the user data in an encrypted form, where the header comprises information which is absolutely necessary for playing back the unencrypted start section of the user data block and where the header also comprises information which is not needed to play back the unencrypted start section of the user data block, comprising:

initially processing only the information of the header which is absolutely necessary for playing back the unencrypted start section of the user data block; and

playing back the unencrypted start section of the user data block.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, which also includes the following steps:

processing the information of the header which is not needed to play back the unencrypted start section;

decrypting the further section of the user data block using the information of the header which is processed in the step of processing; and

playing back the encrypted user data of the further section of the user data block.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein the step of processing the information of the header which is not needed to play back the unencrypted start section is performed concurrently with the playing back of the unencrypted start section.
9. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the length of the unencrypted start section of the user data block is between 1 and 60 seconds.
10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the user data to be encrypted are coded and wherein the information which is needed for playing back comprises an entry specifying the type of coding/decoding method.
11. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the user data are audio and/or video data.
12. (Previously Presented) A device for generating an encrypted user data stream, which has a header and a user data block, comprising:
- a unit for generating the header; and

a unit for generating the user data block, which follows the header, with the following features:

a unit for using a first part of the user data as an unencrypted start section for the user data block, the unencrypted start section remaining unencrypted;

a unit for encrypting a second part of the user data which follows the first part to obtain encrypted user data; and

a unit for appending the encrypted user data to the unencrypted start section,

wherein the unencrypted start section of the user data is placed immediately after the header.

13. (Previously Presented) A device for playing back an encrypted user data stream, which has a header and a user data block, where an unencrypted start section of the user data block, which is placed immediately after the header, comprises the first part of the user data in an unencrypted form and where a further section of the user data block comprises a second part of the user data in an encrypted form, where the header comprises information which is absolutely necessary for playing back the unencrypted start section of the user data block and where the header also comprises information which is not needed to play back the unencrypted start section of the user data block, comprising:

a unit for initially processing only the information of the header which is absolutely necessary for playing back the unencrypted start section of the user data block; and

a unit for playing back the unencrypted start section of the user data block in response to the unit for processing.

14. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 13, which further comprises:

a unit for processing the information of the header which is not needed to play

back the unencrypted start section;

a unit for decrypting the further section of the user data block using the information of the header which is processed by the unit for processing; and

a unit for playing back the encrypted user data of the further section of the user data block.

15. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 14, wherein the unit for processing the information of the header which is not needed to play back the unencrypted start section is designed to be operated concurrently to the unit for playing back the unencrypted start section.
16. (Original) A device according to claim 13 which is implemented as a stereo system, hifi unit, solid state player, a playback unit with a hard disk or CD ROM, or a computer.
17. (Original) A device according to claim 12, wherein the user data are audio and/or video data.
18. (Cancelled)